

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial
Relations
News For Immediate Release
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Disaster Unemployment Assistance Extended for Katrina Claimants

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, March 8, 2006 President Bush signed into law, the Katrina Emergency Assistance Act of 2006, which will extend Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits for Hurricane Katrina affected claimants who remain unemployed as a direct result of the disaster.

The extension, which is 100 percent federally funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), will allow individuals who remain unemployed as a direct result of the disaster to receive up to thirteen additional weeks of DUA benefits with the disaster assistance period ending on June 3, 2006. The Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits were originally scheduled to end March 4, 2006.

Individuals who were receiving disaster related unemployment compensation or DUA benefits as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina, and remain unemployed as a direct result of the disaster, will be notified by mail, according to Phyllis Kennedy, Director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations. If you think you are eligible and DO NOT receive a notification by mail and have questions concerning this information, you may call the toll free call center inquiry line at 1-800-361-4524.

DUA services are administered by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations through its network of Unemployment Compensation Call Centers across the state.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of state government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov>.